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ANNALS OF SURGERY.

SURGICAL TREATMENT OF TUMORS OF THE BLADDER.¹

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THAT the bladder may be the seat of a morbid growth, has been known from the earliest times, but only recently has the treatment of vesical neoplasm been other than medical and symptomatic, general or local, intended to relieve pain, arrest haemorrhage and remove existing irritation or inflammation.

Though occasionally in catheterization an outgrowth had been caught and brought away, or in the course of a lithotomy a discovered tumor had been removed, though, even as far back as 1639, Covillard had done a lateral operation on account of a previously recognized growth, and two centuries later Civiale had with his trilabe seized and detached polypoid tumors, yet, surgical interference as a regular formalized method of treatment, at least in the case of a male patient, is of recent adoption and may be regarded as dating from 1874, the year in which were done the well known operations of Billroth and Volkmann; attracting the attention of surgeons generally only after the appearance of Sir Henry Thompson's papers in 1882 and 1883.

A sufficient number of cases have now been operated upon to enable us to at least fairly well determine whether or not surgical interference is proper, what it can accomplish and how best it is to be made.

Malignant neoplasms, left to themselves, must of necessity

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